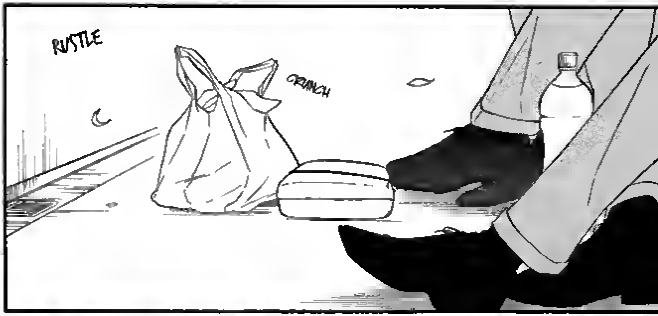
#22
SERIOUS WRITING

Here
MUNCH
MUNCH
.....
.....
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
.....
.....
Thanks
WANT TO HAVE SOME TAKO YAKI?
SURE
HERE'S A HOTDOG
One sec
.....
.....
...CON...
.....
.....
MUNCH
Sports suit
Plastic bag
Tissue paper
...YUP.
.....
SO TAKAOKA-SENPAI...

NOOO, IT'S NOT POSSI-BLE...
.....
.....
.....
..RIGHT?
Yup.
IT CAN'T BE, RIGHT? RIGHT? IT CAN'T BE!
NO, WITH THE FLOW OF THE CONVERSATION, THAT CAN'T BE!
No way, no way, no way
Right? I think s too. No...I'm not fa...l with real life so I can't be sure
"I have something to say."
BUT...
WHAT WOULD THAT SOMETHING BE...?
BLOW
HMM...
SOME-THING LIKE THAT?
"IF WE TRIED HARDER, WE MIGHT BE HAPPIER."
HMM...

SOMEHOW, AFTER HEARING THOSE WORDS, I FEEL SO EXCITED LIKE I'M GOING TO EXPLODE. IT'S EMBARRASSING
Haha
ME TOO.
HOW TO PUT IT... RIGHT?
...YUP.



Transcendent

Flinch
ÉCLAIR!
WANT SOME ÉCLAIR?
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
Flinch
WHY...
Uh
KANADE-KUN WHY ARE YOU HERE...?
.....
Flinch
GET UP
C-CAN I SIT HERE?
.....
DO AS YOU WISH.
Éclair
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
.....
Yes
E-
ÉCLAIR...
WANT TO HAVE SOME?
Y-YOU LIKE TO EAT THIS, RIGHT?

Tear
...WHY?

AH... I-I'LL EAT.
...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EAT THIS?
Seems there are five pieces.
Asai-san from Tokyo
REGARDING THE ÉCLAIR. I THINK SUGITA HEARD IT FROM ASAI-SAN AND THEN TOLD ME...
I JUST... REMEMBERED IT...
EH?
AH...
UMM, SUGITA WAS HERE, RIGHT? THAT GUY GAVE ME THE IN-VITATION...
CREAK

UMM...
AND EARLIER...
PUFF

I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE YOU WERE...
SO I ASKED IF ANYONE KNEW A FIRST YEAR NAMED TSUGE-SAN
WHAT?
What's with this?
BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE SAW YOU.
And me where you were
I KNOW... I'M BIG AND VERY OBVIOUS...
EH?
N-NO.
UMM...
IF ONLY I COULD SAY "BECAUSE YOU'RE CUTE" LIFE WOULD BE MUCH EASIER
Blush
Stare
AH... NOTHING...
YOU SEEM VERY DEPRESSED. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
UHH...
UM...
AH... NOTHING...
WHAT?

Rustle
THAT'S ALL...
IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T THINK I PERFORMED VERY WELL...
NOTH-ING...

EH?
YOU GOT THIS FAR FROM NOTHING, RIGHT? ISN'T THAT REALLY AWESOME?
I-I DON'T! BUT...
SLIDE
OH, NOT AT ALL
KANADE-KUN, YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT DANCE
IT WAS GREAT.
THE PERFOR-MANCE WAS VERY GOOD
In my opinion

SOMEONE SAID THAT I DIDN'T WORK HARD ENOUGH!
TSUGE, SINCE YOU'VE WORKED HARD, THAT'S ALREADY AMAZING.
UMM... IT'S ALL RELATIVE, RIGHT?
BUT I'M PROBABLY THE ONE WHO DID THE WORST...
HUH... BUT WITH THIS, ISN'T THE ANSWER SUPER SIMPLE. ?
I DANCED POORLY, ALTHOUGH I'VE TRIED VERY HARD...
I WASN'T ABLE TO...DO AS AMAZING AS EVERYONE ELSE...
HM? YOU WORKED HARD BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH, RIGHT? THAT'S WHY YOU'RE FEELING SO FRUSTRATED?
UWAA...
WHAT?!
How?!
THAT'S RIGHT!

EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T DO WELL AFTER WORKING HARD, DON'T YOU NEED TO JUST DO YOUR BEST AND WORK EVEN HARDER?
BESIDES IF YOUR METHOD ISN'T WORKING, JUST TRY A DIFFERENT WAY
IS THERE ANY REASON TO DENY YOUR PAST EFFORTS?
E-EVEN IF YOU CONSTANTLY FACE FRUSTRATION OR FAILURES, IT'S NOT THE END OF EVERYTHING!
BUT YOU... IT'S ONLY BEEN ONE TIME...
!
!

TO... TO END IT... YOURSELF... ISN'T THAT PATHETIC...?
.....
"Die, shrimp."

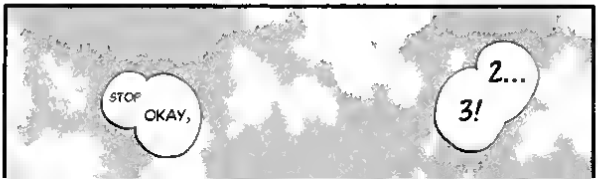
"Huh, Tsuge? She's pretty, right?"
"Ah"
MY METHOD...
...WAS ALSO WRONG...
BUT...

IF I WORKED HARD BUT IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH, I NEED TO WORK EVEN HARDER?
THAT'S RIGHT...
.....
I SEE...
?
.....
UNNAT...
DO YOU WANT SOMETHING FROM ME?
YOU'RE BEING SO GENTLE, IT FEELS UNNATURAL
Money rewards?
ural?
"Do you want something?" she asks, I should just say "I want you to go out with me" then my life would be easier
UMM...
WHA...
UHH...
I JUST WANT TO APOLOGIZE!
TO YOU...

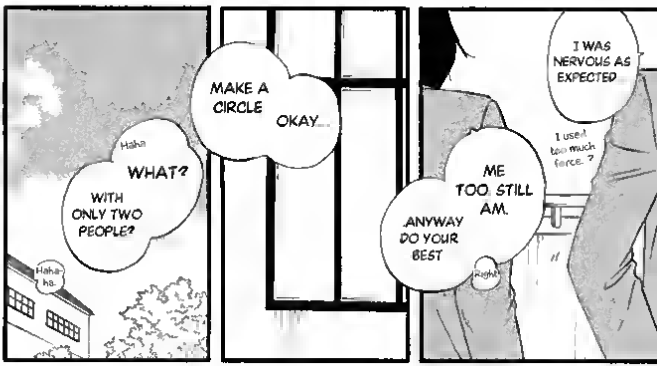
?
.....
THANKS?
AND THEN
.....
SUDDEN
RATTLE
Shook
YOU'RE SUPER... CUTE!
...SO PLEASE DON'T THINK ABOUT THE FAILURES!

Stomp
Stomp
Stomp
Turn
?
HUH?
HMM...
HUH,
WHAT...?
Turn
ALSO, REMOVE ME FROM YOUR BLACKLIST!
Flinch
Natsu-chan sent a text.
Blacklist
huh?

Transcendence



HEY, WHERE SHOULD WE BE LOOKING DURING THE DANCE?
PERHAPS THE UPPER RIGHT CORNER? THAT'S WHERE I LOOK.
YOU WERE CONSTANTLY STARING DOWN TODAY
Earlier
OH, REALLY? I GUESS SO THEN.
I'll pay attention.
ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT, WHEN YOU WERE DOING THE CHARACCHA, YOU TWIRLED HER A LITTLE FORCEFULLY.
Hey, legs were dangling
SERIOUSLY?!
Wah


I WAS NERVOUS AS EXPECTED
I used too much force...?
ME TOO. STILL AM.
ANYWAY DO YOUR BEST
Right!
MAKE A CIRCLE
OKAY...
Haha
WHAT? WITH ONLY TWO PEOPLE?
Haha-ha.

Screening
Movie Lovers' Club

ユージュアル
TAKA-OKA..
IT'S EMBARRASSING IF YOU KEEP ACTING LIKE THAT IN THAT OUTFIT, YOU KNOW
.....
Transcendence
PLEASE LET ME STAY SO I CAN TRY AGAIN AND NOT FEEL LIKE A FAILURE...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE YOU CAME HERE AND SAID THAT
IT'S SUCH A RARE CHANCE THAT YOU'RE DRESSED UP SO SERIOUSLY, AT LEAST GO GRAB SOME CUSTOMERS
GAK
I DON'T WANT TO
Sigh
YOU BRAT..
WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHAT'S WRONG? TELL ME, I WANT TO KNOW
HUH
.....

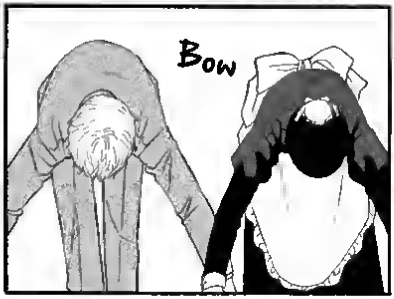
COWERING
SERI-OUS-LY...
...DAMN!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
AHHHH!
Although I'm not sure what happened
UGH! THAT FREAKED ME OUT
UWAH
AHHH!
HUH?
WHAT?
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF NINOMI-YA-SAN LEAVES ...?
Ugh

WE'RE BACK!
RATTLE
SUDDEN
SIT UP

WEL-
COME
BACK.
AH,
SENPAI.
You were here?
WHAT
WERE YOU
DOING?
SLEEP-
ING.
Eh?

.....
THERE'S
STILL ONE
MORE
PERFOR-
MANCE,
DO
YOUR
BEST.

Transcendence
...HMM.
Ah, everyone's here
We're back.

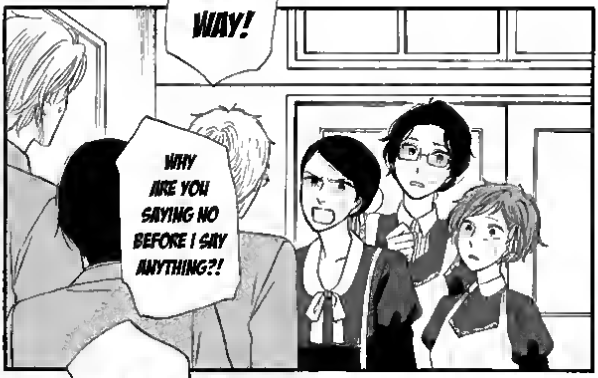

Bow

STOMP

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
Bravo!

TAP
NINO-MIYA-SAN,
I WANT TO SAY WHAT I WANTED TO TELL YOU BEFORE!
HUH?
Now?
Ehhh?
HUH.
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

NO.
I WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOURNAMENT


NO WAY!
WHY ARE YOU SAYING NO BEFORE I SAY ANYTHING?!

BECAUSE,
I DON'T WANT TO!
I KNEW YOU WOULD SAY THIS!

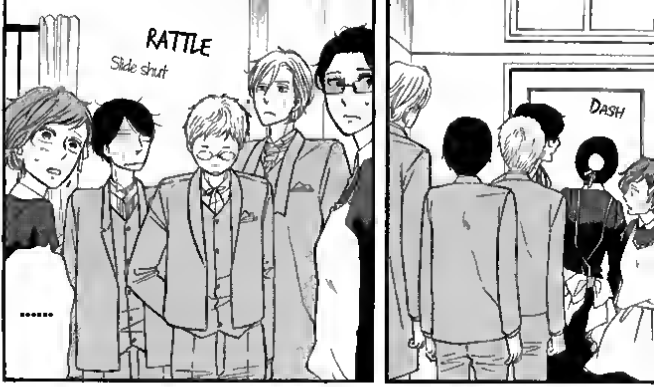
I HEARD.
I SAID I'M ONLY DOING THINGS I LIKE.
I HEARD.
I SAID THIS IS JUST MY HOBBY, THAT'S WHY I WANT TO HAVE FUN DANCING.
I HEARD.
DIDN'T I SAY BEFORE THAT I'M NOT PARTICIPATING IN THOSE?
CAN'T YOU WORK REALLY HARD FOR MY SAKE, JUST THIS ONCE?
TOURNAMENTS ARE A PAIN SINCE WE WORK SO HARD JUST FOR SOMEONE TO GIVE US CRITICISM.
AREN'T YOU HAVING ENOUGH FUN RIGHT NOW? WHY PARTICIPATE?

IF YOU SERIOUSLY DON'T WANT TO...
THEN FORGET ABOUT IT...
IT ISN'T ABOUT WINNING I JUST WANT TO KNOW HOW FAR I CAN GO BY WORKING HARD...
BECAUSE I'M NOT HAVING FUN IF I DON'T WORK HARD...

AS LONG YOU PROMISE ME THIS. I'LL NEV-ER MAKE ANY OTHER REQUEST...

LET ME THINK ABOUT IT...
Hmph.

.....
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO SAY IT IN SUCH A SLY WAY...


RATTLE
Slide shut
.....
DASH

How rare
Eh? Takaoka is sleeping?
Ahaha
Oh no this is the exhaustion that comes with the end of the festival

RATTLE
AH, MORNING NINOMI-YA...
Flinch
YOU'RE LATE AS USUAL.
Haha
I WANT TO SLEEP.
Yawning
Ahaa ha...
FLAP
RATTLE
?!
Step

Flap
Primary Secondary High School Student Social Dance Tournament
RATTLE
THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO WORK THE HARDEST ISN'T ME, BUT YOU, TAKAOKA-KUN.

IF YOU'RE FINE WITH THAT, WE CAN PARTIC-IPATE.
END

credits:

translator: 7yu
proofreader: `roze`
cleaner: mizuko1604 & nessy
typesetter: kokoromi
quality checker: `roze`, chiisai-hime

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ヤマシタトモコ
yamashita tomoko